

Tale Feathers

Sept 2003

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*YOUR St. Louis Audubon Society-
There's More Than You Imagined*

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Audubon Ark

The Audubon Ark will be on the St. Louis Riverfront Sept. 4-6. There is an open house on the Sept 6.

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Audubon Society of Missouri (ASM) Annual Fall Weekend Sept. 26- 28

ASM invites all St. Louis area birders to attend the annual fall birding weekend held at Camp Clover Point at the Lake of the Ozarks State Park

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and registration form*

Bird Response to Prescribed Burning at Cuivre River

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Professor John Blake, University of Missouri-St. Louis, will discuss the results of a six year survey at Cuivre River State Park

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St. Louis Audubon Society

New Members

Judith A. Allen
M. Billmeyer
Jennifer Bowlin
Beverly R. Buxton
Mark A. Dolan
Anna Forder
Cindy Kirkpatrick
Patricia Klenc
Karen S. Nieman
Michelle Piranio
John E. Simons
Jennifer Speciale
D. C. Sullivan
William R. True
Charlotte M. Walker
Mr.- Mrs. Don West
Willa Willman
Diana S. Wunning
John P. Sahrman
Sarantis Symeonoglou

Transfers

Hazel Arnett
Kenneth Davis
Harold Dee
Rose M. Donohue
Gabriele Griffiths Hill
Philip Isserman
Robert Marsh
Jack Posey
James Rudolf
Dennis Wilhelmi
James H. Wilson

So, What IS the St. Louis Audubon Society, Anyway?

Tuesday, September 16, 2003 at 7:30 p.m. at the Powder Valley Nature Center.

YOUR St. Louis Audubon Society-There's More Than You Imagined

Yes, as most people know, we're big on birds. But what does that really mean, and is there more? Did you know that during the 2002/2003 school year, our volunteers presented educational programs to over 2000 students, or that we offer programs as diverse as birds and bats, owls and rivers? Come hear, see, and feel just what we're all about-from field trips, to bird monitoring, to classroom programs, to conservation advocacy, and much, much more. Meet the people that make it happen and find out if there's something interesting for you. Bring along that friend or relative that looks at you sideways when you say, "Audubon." Whether you're new, been around for years, or haven't even joined, we guarantee you'll learn something new about St. Louis Audubon!

Open to all-members or not. Refreshments will be available, and door prizes, too!! From the intersection of Interstates 44 & 270, take Watson Rd. to Geyer Rd. Turn north on Geyer for 200 yds. to Cragwold Rd. Go west on Cragwold for 1 mi. to nature center entrance on right. Follow drive to parking lot. Enter building through left entrance. Questions, call Cathy Devine at 314-962-3460.



Conservation Report

-Sue Gustafson, Vice President Conservation

The inaugural Missouri Bird Conservation Initiative (MoBCI) Conference was held August 15 and 16 in Columbia, Missouri. St. Louis Audubon has participated in MoBCI formation meetings since April 2000 and is one of 21 affiliated organizations working to protect, restore and enhance the populations and habitats of Missouri's wild birds. The conference, "Identifying Common Ground and Developing a Vision for Missouri Bird Conservation," sought to determine the future actions and direction for this important partnership of bird conservation organizations. Affiliate organizations include numerous Audubon chapters, the Webster Groves Nature Study Society, Quail Unlimited, Ducks Unlimited, Pheasants Forever, Missouri Prairie Foundation, and state and federal agencies. MoBCI serves as a forum for exchange of ideas on bird conservation and provides an opportunity for organizations to work cooperatively to achieve greater results. The conference was an opportunity for partners to learn about the diversity of organizations involved in bird conservation, the status of birds in Missouri, and to be an active participant in forging the future direction and success of MoBCI.

Birding Trips for September and October

John Solodar

Sept 6, Saturday - SLAS trip at the Gaddy Bird Garden in Tower Grove Park. Led by Torrey Berger and Mike Thelen at 7:30 AM. Fall migration should be in full swing.

Sept 7, Sunday - WGNSS trip at the Gaddy Bird Garden in Tower Grove Park. Led by Sherry McCowan at 8:00 AM

Sept 13, Saturday - SLAS trip to Busch Conservation Area and Weldon Spring. Leaders for this 1/2 day trip are Torrey Berger and Mike Thelen. Busch is a good location for those confusing fall migrants.

Sept 14, Sunday - WGNSS trip to the Epstein Prairie at West Tyson County Park. Led by Mike Brady at 8:00 AM

Sept 20, Saturday - SLAS joint trip with St. Louis County Parks Dept. Bird-n-Learn program at the Creve Coeur Lake/Little Creve Coeur Lake complex. Join leader Mary Dueren at the green roofed building 1.5 miles north of Olive on Creve Coeur Mill Rd, next to Mallard Lake, at 8:00 AM.

Sept 21, Sunday - WGNSS trip to Riverlands led by Dave Rogles. Meet in Teal Pond parking lot at 8:00 AM.

Sept 27, Saturday - SLAS annual Carlyle Pelagic Trip. We'll be looking for passerines in Hazlett State Park in the morning, gulls midday from boats on the lake and then shorebirds in the afternoon. The leaders will be Joe Eades and Paul Bauer with the help of Dan Kassebaum. This is an all day trip with a charge for the use of the boats on the lake. Contact Dency Kahn at dency@vierck.us or 314-997-4555 to sign up or to obtain details. There is a limit on the number of people that the boats can accommodate.

Sept 28, Sunday - WGNSS annual Hawk Watch at Mark Peters house at 9:00 AM. See the WGNSS website for details and directions. (www.wgnss.org)

Oct 5, Sunday - WGNSS walk led by Mike Thelen. Location and time to be announced so see the WGNSS website for details.

Oct 11, Saturday - SLAS trip to Two Rivers National Wildlife Refuge and Riverlands. This will be an all day trip so those who want to go that long should bring lunch and water. Meet at 8:00 AM across the road from the Brussels Ferry in Grafton, Illinois. We will start at the Gilbert Lake portion of the refuge. Paul Bauer and John Solodar will be our leaders.

Oct 18, Saturday - SLAS trip to Clarence Cannon NWR starting at 8:00 AM with Jim Malone and Torrey Berger leading. This has always been one of our more pleasant and relaxed birding trips. The weather should be ideal and the birds plentiful. From Clarence Cannon we will also look into B.K. Leach Conservation area, Prairie Slough so bring a lunch and water if you want to go all day with us.

Oct 19, Sunday - WGNSS trip to Horseshoe Lake led by Frank Holmes at 8:00 AM. This trip is scheduled to start at the pavilion at the end of the causeway, but may start near the park entrance if the causeway is closed because of duck season.

Oct 25, Saturday - SLAS trip to Little Creve Coeur Lake and Creve Coeur Lake. Migrating waterfowl should be starting to come in good numbers and we might see migrating soras, rails and sparrows as well. Join Mike Grant and Jim Malone for and 8:00 AM start. This trip will be combined with the St. Louis County Parks Department Bird-N-Learn series, but note that the fee charged by County Parks is only required of those who sign up through County Parks. Show up as part of the SLAS group and pay no fee.

How to get there

Gaddy bird garden in Tower Grove Park - I-44 or I-64 to south Kingshighway. Go about 1 mile to left on Magnolia. Park on street; walk to the brushy area (Gaddy Bird Garden) at the northwest corner of the park.

Horseshoe Lake - Take I-70 east across the Poplar Street Bridge. Exit at Hwy 111 (exit 6) and turn left. Go about 2 miles to the State Park entrance (on the left). Meet at 1st parking lot on the right.

Busch Conservation Area - Take U.S.40/I-64 west into St. Charles County. Take Hwy 94 south from U.S 40 about 1 mile to Hwy D. Turn right and go about 1.5 miles to the entrance on the right. Turn left at the "T" to Hampton Lake and meet in the parking lot.

Epstein Prairie - From I-44 West exit at Lewis Rd and go left on the North Outer Rd. Follow North Outer Rd to the parking lot at the Headquarters building for Route 66 State Park. We'll carpool from here due to limited parking at Epstein Prairie.

Creve Coeur Lake/Little Creve Coeur Lake complex. From the western leg of I-270 go west on Olive for 2.0 miles. Turn right on Creve Coeur Mill Road and travel about 1.5 miles to the green roofed building on the right, adjacent to Mallard Lake.

Riverlands - Take Hwy 367 north from I-270. The designation changes to Hwy 67 just beyond the 4th traffic light, but continue. Turn right on last road just before the Clark Bridge at the Mississippi River. (Fisca gas station at this turn.) Turn right on the first road and park in the Teal Pond parking lot.

Carlyle Lake - Take I-64 east across the Poplar Street Bridge. Exit I-64 at Hwy 50 East (toward Carlyle). Follow Hwy 54 to Hwy 127 and turn left at the junction. Turn right into McDonald's. Meet in the parking lot.

Two Rivers NWR - Follow the directions to Riverlands, but go over the Clark Bridge into Alton IL. Go left on Route 143 at the end of the bridge and left again at the intersection with Route 100. Follow Route 100 upriver through Grafton. Meet in the parking lot across from the Brussels Ferry.

Clarence Cannon NWR - Take Missouri Hwy 79 north from I-70 to Annada. Turn right on the south side of Annada and follow signs to the headquarters. The trip takes about 65-70 minutes from the intersection of I-170 and I-70 near the airport.

A good partner: Birding trips with children.

Arthur Montgomery

I had promised my daughter Audrey that I would take her on a birding trip. She is always ready to do things away from her little brother who steals attention from her. So we set a date for Busch Wildlife Area and planned to go see some birds.

She is not much of a morning person so when I woke her up at 6:30 am I was expecting some resistance. Much to my surprise she shot up out of bed with a great deal of excitement and said, "Are we going to go see the birds today?" My heart soared.

We got ready to go, I gave her a small pair of binoculars, a back pack with snacks and drinks, a coat and a change of clothes for good measure. We were ready to go and she bounded with enthusiasm.

Before I go on I should let you know that Audrey was a little over 2 years old when this happened. Known for a short attention span, and said to be high spirited by some. I would be lying if I wasn't more than just a little concerned about her wanting to leave 10 minutes into the trip.

It was a cool drizzly spring morning when we arrived at the appointed rendezvous point at Busch Wildlife area. There was a large group of people gathered to follow Jim Malone through the woods to find new and unusual species of birds.

Jim led us down the trail into the woods. Audrey held my hand and we followed the group of birders waiting for something exciting to happen. Finally it did, a yellow bellied sap sucker was skipping from tree to tree. Everyone stood still staring through their binoculars trying to locate the elusive little bird. I finally got a glimpse of it after a few minutes of flashes of brown in the green trees. I looked down to see what Audrey was doing, she had her binoculars up, but the eye pieces were resting firmly on her forehead as she looked at the ground. I had to chuckle, she was doing what everyone else was doing, including the oohs and ahhs.

The number of birds in the woods that day was disappointing so we left the woods to hike through a field. This field was a supposed to be a prime birding area according to Jim. We saw blue birds, doves and geese, not to mention a good view of a hairy woodpecker on our way over to the field.

Audrey ate gold fish, drank fruit juice and continued to walk with us. She was quite a trooper I must say. A fox sparrow was very cooperative. My daughter got to see it, she was very excited to finally see what every body else was looking at.

After about two hours a vireo and fox sparrows plus many other species of birds, my daughter looked at me and said, "Daddy can we do something else now." She had made it two hours in the cold damp morning without a whine one. We packed up and headed home.

Every once in a while she will ask me when will we go out and see the birds again. I am looking forward to our next birding trip together.

I am so glad that I had the opportunity to take my daughter out on a bird walk. She enjoyed it and we got to spend some quality time together doing something we both enjoyed.

A helpful hint when taking your children birding:

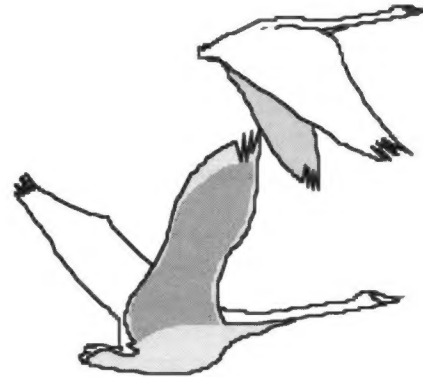
- 1.Change of clothes and dry shoes.
- 2.Snacks and drinks.
- 3.Binoculars.

Thank You

A big thank you to Laura Resnick and Landmark Theaters for screening *Winged Migrations*.

The screening was held on June 11 at Plaza Frontenac Cinema. The screening was paid for by Sony Classic Films and the theatre was provided free of charge by Landmark Theatres. Audubon sold out the performance and raised in excess of \$1,450 which will be used in our education programs.

The film, *Winged Migrations*, directed by Jacques Perrin, was fabulous and was nominated for an Academy Award for Best Documentary.



Bird Response to Prescribed Burning at Cuivre River

Mark your calendar for Tuesday, October 21, 2003 at 7:30 p.m. at the Powder Valley Nature Center.

Professor John Blake, University of Missouri-St. Louis, will discuss the results of a six year survey at Cuivre River State Park to assess the effects of prescribed burns on resident and migrant bird species and the plant community. This important work has potential impact throughout the state as prescribed burning has become an often-used tool in ecological restoration.

Open to all-members or not. Refreshments will be available.

From the intersection of Interstates 44 & 270, take Watson Rd. to Geyer Rd. Turn north on Geyer for 200 yds. to Cragwold Rd. Go west on Cragwold for 1 mi. to nature center entrance on right. Follow drive to parking lot. Enter building through left entrance.

Questions, call Mitch Leachman at 314-739-5112.

Audubon Society of Missouri (ASM) Annual Fall Weekend

Sept. 26- 28

ASM invites all St. Louis area birders to attend the annual fall birding weekend held at Camp Clover Point at the Lake of the Ozarks State Park. The Saturday evening program will feature **Stephen Mahfood, Director of the Missouri Department of Natural Resources**, who will speak about DNR and the birding community.

WEEKEND ACTIVITIES

Friday - Registration begins at 3:00 pm

The Friday evening program will be presented by management level Missouri Department of Conservation staff and will focus on management topics of interest to birders. This will be followed by our annual ASM slide show in which members are invited to bring their favorite slides to share with the group.

Saturday

Field trips will begin Saturday morning and will include a choice of trips to Pin Oak, Brumley Hollow, Ozark caverns, airport "wetland", or the State Park savannah area. No need to sign up in advance; groups will organize according to field trip interest.

After lunch, there will be a birding workshop. The workshop will be the ever-popular Bill Rowe photo identification quiz. Slides will range from common, easy to identify birds to rare and difficult to identify birds. After participants have made their ID, the answers will be given and an analysis of the field marks will be presented.

Following the bird identification workshop, several activities will be available. Field trips will resume or members can participate in a round-table discussion with MDC staff members that will follow-up on Friday evening's presentation.

In the evening, Stephen Mahfood, Director of the Missouri Department of Natural Resources (DNR), will talk with us about DNR and the birding community. The annual ASM business meeting will follow.

Sunday

A worship service is offered at 6:30 a.m.

Field trips will begin following breakfast. After lunch, the birds seen over the weekend will be compiled. Have your cabins cleaned and be ready to go home by 2:30 p.m.

ACCOMMODATIONS

Cabins include bunk and mattress, shower and rest rooms.

You must bring bedding, towels, and toilet articles.

REGISTRATION

\$55.00 per person: Includes registration, lodging for Friday and Saturday evenings and all meals through Sunday Lunch (six meals).

\$43.00 per person: Includes registration, Saturday night lodging only and four meals beginning at noon Saturday.

Meals only: \$7.00 per meal plus a \$10.00 registration fee.

Students: \$25.00 per person: Includes registration, lodging for Friday and/or Saturday evening(s), and all meals while in attendance.

Children 12 and under are free

Deadline for registration is September 12, 2003. Send registration form with check or money order to:

Audubon Society of Mo
2101 W. Broadway Box 122
Columbia, MO 65203

Make checks payable to Audubon Society of Missouri.

Full refund with cancellation before September 12.

After September 12 a partial refund will be given on a prorated basis from any excess funds left after all of our expenses for the fall meeting are paid.

Refund requests must be made in writing by October 30, 2003 to Joyce Bathke, ASM Treasurer, at the above address.

ASM MEETING REGISTRATION FORM

NAME(S): _____

ADDRESS: _____

PHONE : _____

EMAIL: _____

- | | | | | | |
|--------------------------------|-----------|---|--|-------|---------|
| 1. Full registration | - \$55.00 | X | _____ (No. of people) | = | _____ |
| 2. Partial registration | - \$43.00 | X | _____ (No. of people) | = | _____ |
| 3. Registration and meals only | | | | | |
| a. Meals only | - \$ 7.00 | X | _____ (No. of meals) X _____ (No. of People) | = | _____ |
| b. Registration | \$10.00 | X | _____ (No. of People) | = | _____ |
| 4. Students | - \$25.00 | X | _____ (No. of people) | = | _____ |
| | | | | TOTAL | = _____ |

For directions to Camp Clover Point or for more info, visit www.mobirds.org or contact Sue Gustafson at 314-968-8128

AAAS Funds Local Urban Bird Studies

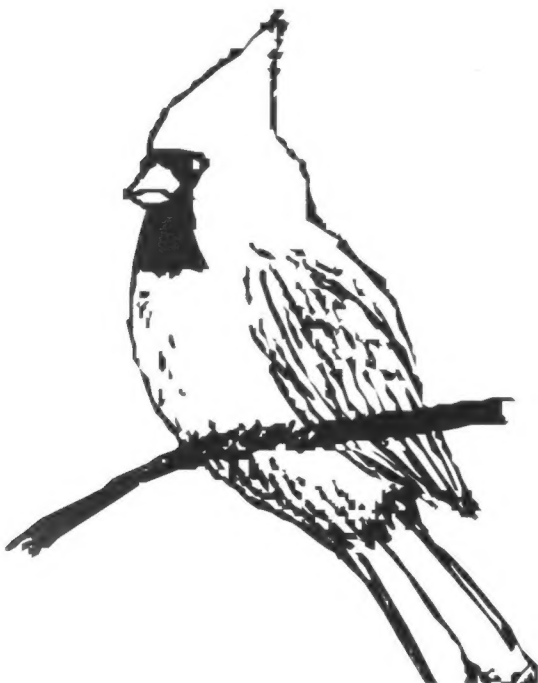
The American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) has awarded a grant of \$9,000 to the Academy of Science for the members of the Junior Academy to participate in the Urban Bird Studies. The purpose is to develop and conduct a successful model to count and identify birds living in a large metropolitan area. The citizen-science project urban residents was developed by the Cornell Lab of Ornithology with funding from the National Science Foundation.

All Junior Academy members and their families have been invited to participate in this ongoing scientific census of birds living in the St. Louis Region. Some data will be collected by Junior Academy chapters from their school neighborhoods. Other data may be gathered near the homes of Junior Academy members—urban, suburban and rural.

Members of the St. Louis Audubon Society have volunteered to host identification workshops throughout the spring and summer. The students and their parents and teachers will be instructed in basic bird identification skills and will learn the study parameters, review the importance of this international avian research effort and identify areas to develop their own scientific research.

Academy members and friends are welcome to participate as mentors or leaders. For information, call Lois Wieprecht at the Academy at 314-533-8586 or email <loisw@jracademy.com>

Originally printed in the Sci-Info 2002 Annual Report published by the Academy of Science of St. Louis, April 2003. Reprinted here with the permission of Susan Stollar. Pat McCormick and Lisa Nansteel of SLAS have helped the Academy present the their bird identification workshops.



Whooping Cranes the Easy Way

John Solodar

Generally, if one wants to see whooping cranes one must travel to Aransas NWR in Texas and travel to the refuge with an accredited boat operator.

In early August we found an easier way to see these very large magnificent birds. During a trip to Wisconsin we visited two places that had them.

One place, Necedah NWR in Necedah WS, has wild whooping cranes that one can see from a viewing platform not far from the headquarters building or from a photo blind area about 3/4 mile walk from headquarters. We saw lots of whoopers strutting around, feeding and flying. There were also lots of sandhill cranes (brown from mud or else gray) around to compare with the almost all-white whooping cranes. The latter made the sandhill cranes look small. These wild whoopers are the nucleus of a new migrant flock that the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is developing. Chicks are raised from eggs laid by captive whooping cranes that live at Necedah. These chicks are then trained to follow an ultralight plane to a wintering location in Florida. After that they are on their own and return to Necedah each spring. The wild cranes that we saw at Necedah are 1-3 years old, too young to breed yet; but the hope is that they will do so in another 2-3 years. They cannot be counted on your ABA list as they have not established the required number of breeding years as a wild flock. They were a great sight nonetheless and we enjoyed our visit to Necedah.

The other place to see whooping cranes is at the International Crane Foundation in Baraboo, WS. The foundation has 14 of the world's 15 species of cranes on display in caged outdoor pens. Whooping cranes are in a separate viewing area which is more open, but the birds wings have been clipped so they cannot fly away. A large shaded viewing area allows for closeup examination.

Necedah and Baraboo are both about one hour's drive northwest of Madison WS.

Audubon Ark

The Audubon Ark is the brain child of Dan McGuiness, the Director of the Upper Mississippi River Campaign of the National Audubon Society. This is a paddle-wheeled towboat and barge that plies the upper Mississippi River, stopping at river towns, large and small, delivering the message of restoration on the Mighty Miss.

The programs that are presented to river communities and school-children are a mix of science, history, music and fun. The site of the LillieBelle is worth the trip to the riverfront. The Ark was featured in the September 2002 Audubon magazine.

In addition, the research that has been done on the Ark is contributing to the development of the Great River Birding Trail along the Mississippi.

The Ark will be in St. Louis September 4 - 6 and there will be an open house from 10:30 - 3:30 on Saturday, the 6th. In addition, there will be a short, informal program on the Ark at 1:00pm on the 6th.

For further information, contact Mary Dueren, Honorary member of the Audubon Ark any evening: 314-576-1473.

World Bird Sanctuary Events

OPEN HOUSE

Dates: Saturday, October 18, 2003 and Sunday, October 19, 2003

Time: 10am-4pm

Cost: FREE

Amazing animal programs and exhibits, interactive children's area, behind the scenes tours, rare animal viewing opportunities, snacks, and unique gifts throughout the event! Bring your camera, once in a lifetime photo ops! Free parking and shuttle bus from I-44 and Hwy 141 commuter lot.

NEW for 2003: ALL ABOUT OWLS live exhibit, discover those majestic creatures of the night that come in all shapes and sizes! Also new for 2003: HOBGOBLINS,

WEAVERS & TRICKSTERS: Mysteries Solved with Detective Dipperbird. Join Detective Dipperbird to uncover facts and folklore about some of the most interesting creatures on earth!

SUNRISE WITH SONGBIRDS

Dates: Birding adventures are offered year-round, please call for additional dates.

'03 Fall Migration dates: Sept. 7 & 21; Oct. 5 & 12

'03 Wings of Winter dates: Nov. 2 & 23; Dec. 7 & 28

Time: Check-In begins at 7am; tour starts promptly at 7:30am

Cost: \$5 per adult " \$3 per child under 12

Hike our majestic grounds and experience America's second most popular hobby: BIRDING! WBS' Wildlife Expert Mike Zeloski leads the tour discussing birding basics and how to spot and identify our many diverse species.

Regardless of your birding experience level this leisurely hike will be rewarding. RESERVATIONS REQUIRED!

OWL PROWL '03-'04

Dates: November-March (Please call for dates)

Time: 7pm (Prowls last approximately 1 1/2 - 2 hours)

Cost: \$7 per adult " \$5 per child under 12

Come over to the dark side and meet those amazing birds that exist by moonlight. Enjoy a close look at our resident owls; learn interesting facts along with their unique calls. Then take a night hike to try to call a wild one in. RESERVATIONS REQUIRED! Group rates available.

Tale Feathers

Tale Feathers is published monthly by the St. Louis Audubon Society. Messenger Printing prints 2,500 copies of each newsletter on recycled paper using soy ink. Anne Bolte edits the newsletter.

St. Louis Audubon Society 2003 - 2004

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Secretary - Mary Smidt	636-227-6127

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Pat Lueders
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Sharon Nickl
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John Solodar
Mike Thelen
Linda Tossing
Dave Tylka

Attention!

The deadline for the Oct. issue is **September 10**. Send inquiries to Anne by

E-mail ambolte@swbell.net

phone 314.832.0938

post 6939 Sharp

St. Louis, MO 63116

St. Louis Audubon Society

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Join the St. Louis Audubon Society and the National Audubon Society

As a joint member with National Audubon, you will receive National Audubon's quarterly magazine (Audubon) as well as St. Louis Audubon Society's Newsletter (Tale Feathers). Now you also have the opportunity to join only the St. Louis Audubon Society, receive Tale Feathers, and participate in the educational and conservation activities of St. Louis Audubon. There is no distinction between individual and family membership. Dues cover all members at the same address. For information, call (314) 822-6595.

St. Louis Audubon Society / National Audubon Society -- Membership Application

All applicants please check: ☐ New, or ☐ Renewal

Use this form to join St. Louis Audubon / National Audubon

For joint membership in St. Louis Audubon Society and National Audubon Society, Make checks payable to **National Audubon Society** and mail to St. Louis Audubon Society, P. O. Box 220227, Kirkwood, MO 63122.

☐ Introductory Membership / \$20 ☐ Special Two-Year Introductory Membership / \$30

☐ Senior Citizen / \$15 (New and renewal) ☐ Student / \$15 (New and renewal)

☐ Renewal / \$35 (We recommend that you use the forms supplied by National Audubon)

Membership in only the St. Louis Audubon Society. Write checks payable to **SLAS**. Mail to St. Louis Audubon Society, P. O. Box 220227, Kirkwood, MO 63122.

☐ Local Chapter Membership only (St. Louis Audubon Society), Introductory and renewal. / \$15

Name

Address

City State Zip Code NO1 7XCH